

### **Congressional Art Competition**

"An Artistic Discovery" is the annual art contest conducted by Members of Congress for high school students across the country. Students submit original works of art to their Representative's office, and the winning piece from each Congressional district goes on display as part of a year-long national exhibition in the Cannon Tunnel, an underground walkway to the United States Capitol from the House office buildings.

[See last year's winners !](#)

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Thank you for taking the time to find out about the 2009 Congressional Art Competition. This is a chance for North Mississippi High School Students to compete with fellow students across the First Congressional District.

This competition offers one winner the unique opportunity of having their piece of art hung along with entries from other congressional districts.

The winning pieces will be on display for an entire year, and will be in a corridor from the House Office Buildings on the way to the Capitol. The winner will also be invited to attend the opening exhibit in Washington, D.C., with other winners from across the United States.

The Student selected as first place winner for the First Congressional District may be eligible to receive a \$1,500 per year admission scholarship to Savannah College of Art and Design, should they apply and be accepted. I would hope to see that all of the young talented artists in Northern Mississippi make it out to participate in this event.

All participants will need to register their painting with the help of their teacher before Monday,

May 4<sup>th</sup>. The judges panel will be composed by various local artists, teachers, and critics. The Event will be held at the

[Gum Tree Museum](#)

in Tupelo Mississippi on May 23

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If you do not plan on making the trip to Tupelo, then you will need to make sure to drop off your painting at one of our local offices no later then Friday, May 15

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If you are interested in participating in this competition or have any questions, please contact Melissa Rinehart at my Tupelo Office at (662) 841-8808 or Shea Gillen at my Washington Office at (202) 225-1282.

Tupelo

337 E Main Street Suit A

Tupelo, MS 38804-4025

Hernando

2564 Hwy 51 South

Hernando  
, MS 38632

Columbus

523 Main Street

Columbus  
, MS 39701

The Congressman's First District Art Competition is open to all high school students residing in the [First District of Mississippi](#). Only one entry per student will be accepted.

### **Guidelines and rules for the competition:**

- Only high school students in grades 9-12 may enter the art competition.
- Artwork must fall into one of the following categories: painting, drawing, collage, print, mixed media, computer generated art or photography.
- The following guidelines apply to all submitted artwork:
  - All submissions must be 2-dimensional
  - Artwork can be no larger than 30x30 inches, including the frame
  - Artwork can be no larger than 4 inches in depth.
  - All artwork must be protected by a frame. Metal frames with glass or Plexiglass recommended.
- Each entry must be original in concept, design and execution; no violation of US copyright laws. Pictures reproduced from existing photos, paintings graphics or advertisements will not be accepted.
- Artwork must be submitted for the entire year. Artwork cannot be removed early for any reason.
- A completed [Student Release Form](#) must be submitted with all entries.

### **Framing Guidelines**

- Entries must be framed to be hung in the Art Competition.
  - All artwork, except for oil paintings, must be protected by a Plexiglas or glass frame. All artworks, when framed, should be no larger than 30 inches high, 30 inches wide, and 4 inches deep including the outside dimensions of the frame. Please double check size before sending the entry to Washington. Due to wide participation of Member offices, framed work larger than the specified dimensions will be turned away.

- Frames should be kept as simple and sturdy as possible. Metal frames are recommended.
- No "snap on" frames with glass are to be used
- Plexiglas is better to use than glass over the artwork in order to avoid breakage. If glass is used, cover the entire surface completely with masking tape prior to shipping.
- Matting can enhance or detract from a work of art and should be carefully prepared. Use sturdy picture hangers. Two hooks should be attached at the right and the left sides of the back of the work in order to prevent the work from leaning forward or hanging unevenly.
- Since frames will be suspended by wire from overhead molding, please do not put wire between hooks.
- Do not attach labels, ribbon, etc. to the front of the piece or underneath the glass or Plexiglas.
- If the artwork is abstract in design, please indicate on the back side which side is up with arrows.
- As directed by the House Oversight and standards of Official Conduct committees, each winner is responsible for framing his or her own entry. Any hardship cases should be assisted at the district level; works can no longer be framed by the Architect of the Capitol.
- A copy of the typed Student Release form must be attached to the back of the artwork along with an adhesive label as shown.

### **Prizes To Be Awarded:**

- The Grand Prize winner receives a renewable \$5,000 per year scholarship to the Savannah College of Art and Design.
- The Grand Prize art work will be displayed in the Cannon Tunnel at the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington, DC on June 25th in the Cannon Caucus Room.
- The Grand Prize winner and one guest will be invited to attend the reception in Washington, DC.
- Three complimentary airline tickets to Washington, DC.

• Any additional cost to attend the awards ceremony in DC will be the responsibility of the winner

- Other prizes to be awarded

\*The Second Place and Third Place winning entries will hang in Congressman Childers' office for one year.

\* Honorable mentions will be acknowledged and each entrant will receive a Certificate of Congressional Recognition from the Congressman for participating.

### **Suitability Guidelines:**

• As outlined in this guideline, the final decision regarding suitability for exhibition in the Capitol is left to a panel of qualified persons chaired by the Architect of the Capitol. While it is not the intent to censor any artwork, we do wish to avoid artwork that is potentially inappropriate for display in the Capitol.

- Artwork must adhere to the policy of the House Office Building Commission. In accordance with this policy, exhibits depicting subjects of contemporary political controversy or a sensationalistic or gruesome nature are not allowed. It is necessary that all artwork be reviewed by the panel chaired by the Architect of the Capitol and any portions not in consonance with the Commission's policy will be omitted from the exhibit.

### **Adhesive label (label information should be typed)**

Member Name:

State and District:

Title of Piece:

Medium:

Student Name:

Student Address and Phone Number:

### **Important Dates:**

May 4<sup>th</sup>, Registration Ends

On or Before May 15<sup>th</sup>, Turn in Art to Tupelo, or Closest District Office.

May 23<sup>rd</sup> 11-2 Art Show at the Gum Tree Museum